

JO FRANKS  
1ST YEAR ARCHAEOLOGY

1996

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## Bedwin Diary

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> → Arrive at Bedwin

Sun 9<sup>th</sup> → Taken around the site with the 'Prehistoric Society' by Chris, Sue + Barbara  
First impressions of the site!

Cold + windy! - very exposed. I can imagine it being very bleak in the winter. Although the scenery is impressive - the view of the surrounding area is amazing, able to see anyone approaching from a long way - good 'command' over its immediate area. Also a feeling of being 'enclosed', surrounded by other hills.

The site is larger than I had expected. At first glance it

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appears to be just a mess of stone  
and very confusing, although as you  
adjust to it, it becomes easier to  
distinguish things. The holes  
are more defined + perhaps larger  
than I had imagined - I  
expected them all to be the size  
of 23!

Mon 10<sup>th</sup> → Weather really bad in  
the morning. Supposed to sit in on  
a discussion between Chris +  
Barbara + what the surveyors had  
found. But after coffee, deciding  
the night's menu, shopping for  
dinner + lunch + eating lunch  
- it's time Sue worked us up on  
site!

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In the afternoon, Perry + I  
helped Mike excavate hut 23  
One of the better views from a  
downing.

Not much appears - apart from a  
couple of 'features' caused by  
anything other than archaeology!

Tues 11<sup>th</sup> → Day off ?!!

Rain cancels plans!

Weather = appalling Ring man  
+ moon looks!

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Weds 12<sup>th</sup> → Helped Chris, Sue  
+ Gary de-burt + clean up hut 39  
- The hut now appears to be a  
lot bigger than first thought,  
with massive gravel stones.  
- Although it is still a big  
jumble of rubble + quite difficult to  
distinguish where the stones are  
from + how they fell.

N.B: working on 39 able to  
enjoy a good vantage point over  
the 'action' taking place down  
below at the site tent.

At one moment after lunch as Matt  
+ Perry are late, it feels like  
watching the set of a wild west  
movie set - with Mike about  
to reach for his pistol!

Later on in the evening, Anna

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+ I discuss how Barbara + Chris seem to 'enjoy' the 'disputes' that are occurring, a little too much. We reach the conclusion that they perhaps have a ~~separate~~ <sup>separate</sup> agenda, + that we are part of a secret anthropological experiment (interaction in stressed conditions?!). That has very little to do with Leskenik Hill!!!

Thurs  $\Rightarrow$  1/2 day off  
8.00 start. Finished cleaning 39 + "polishing" my knuckles!

In some cases, excavation of the hut completely disagrees with the surveyor's original interpretation - which is interesting but may be problematic, as it is not possible to

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excavate all the huts.

After working on the site for a couple of days, I gradually begin to get more of a feel for it + enjoy imagining what the remains may have looked like. Spending a lot of time amongst the stones I think perhaps encourages a sort of intimacy with them. - Find myself picking out "nice" stones - some of them are really nicely shaped - is it possible that past inhabitants chose them for their aesthetic appeal also?

Afternoon - visit to Craddock Moor which was really enjoyable + very pretty. It is interesting to see a similar landscape to that of

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Leskenik. The near is literally dotted with features. Isn't this supposed to be where one of the main ley lines enters the country? Unfortunately this seemed to have no affect on my energy levels - which were no match for the English Heritage mini enthusiasm. Return to campsite at 9.00pm

Excellent bar-b-q by Ann + Pigeon. Later Chris encourages a "discussion" over whether the stone row should be put back up - Nobody agrees it should - ... apart from Wayne - no comment!

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Fri 14<sup>th</sup>  $\Rightarrow$  Last Day

Helped Sue take a pollen sample in the morning. Helped excavate terminal in the afternoon

Have really taken to the site now + will miss it. Perhaps do something to do with the improvement in weather or maybe the site grows on you but don't want to leave now, although a soft bed is beckoning!